

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 11 and have canceled claims 1, 3-5, and 7-20 during prosecution of this patent application. Applicants are not conceding in this patent application that said amended and canceled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, since the claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of this patent application. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue said amended and canceled claims, and other claims, in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Claim 2, as amended herein, relates to the embodiment of FIG. 4, which is described in Paragraphs 34-37.

In a telephonic interview held on May 30, 2007 between Applicants' representative Jack P. Friedman, Examiner Saoussen Besrour, and the Examiner's Supervisor Christopher Revak, an amendment proposed by Applicant, especially including an amendment of claim 2, was discussed and it was agreed that: (1) the proposed amendment overcomes the cited prior art; (2) Applicant will submit an after-final response that includes the proposed amendment; and (3) the Examiner will enter the amendment in the after-final response and will do a new search of the amended claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Atkinson *et al.* (US 6,367,012).

The Examiner rejected claims 10, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Logue *et al.* (US 2002/0174341).

The Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable

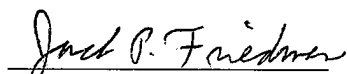
over Logue *et al.* (US 2002/0174341) in view of Atkinson *et al.* (US 6,367,012).

Since the Examiner has agreed in the telephonic interview held on May 30, 2007 that the amended claims herein overcome the cited prior art, no further arguments are presented herein as to the cited prior art, and Applicants will await the results of the Examiner's search.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicant respectfully believes that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0457.

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